

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica having the following physico-chemical properties:

BET surface area:	35 m^2/g to 350 m^2/g ;
BET/CTAB surface area ratio:	0.8 to 1.1;
pore volume, PV:	1.6 ml/g to 3.4 ml/g ;
silanol group density, ml of NaOH consumed in raising pH to 9:	6 to 20 ml 3 $\text{ml}/(1.5 \text{ g})$ to 9.5 $\text{ml}/(1.5 \text{ g})$;
average aggregate size:	250 nm to 1500 nm ;
CTAB surface area:	30 m^2/g to 350 m^2/g ;
DBP volume:	150 $\text{ml}/100 \text{ g}$ to 300 $\text{ml}/100 \text{ g}$;
V_2/V_1 by Hg porosimetry:	0.19 to 0.46; and
DBP/CTAB:	1.2 to 3.5.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The precipitated silica of claim 16, wherein the DBP/CTAB ratio is 1.2 to 2.4.

Claims 18-19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The precipitated silica of claim 16, wherein said DBP/CTAB ratio is 1.545 to 3.5.